

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **American Education Reform Makes Historic Advance with Record Number Of Teachers Achieving National Board Certification® in 2001**

#### **321 Iowa Teachers Have Earned Profession's Top Honor**

ARLINGTON, VA —The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) announces groundbreaking numbers to show a historic advance in education reform in the United States - 6,500 teachers from 49 states and the District of Columbia have earned the teaching profession's highest credential - National Board Certification – in 2001.

By a wide margin, the record achievement of new National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in 2001 surpasses last year's announcement of 4,727, bringing the cumulative total number of National Board Certificates to 16,035. Iowa previously had 234 certified teachers and has now added an additional 87 teachers to this honored distinction, bringing the total number of Iowa NBCTs to 321.

National Board Certification is a symbol of teaching excellence. A voluntary process established by NBPTS, it is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that takes nearly a year to complete. Through the assessment process, teachers document their subject matter knowledge, provide evidence that they know how to teach their subjects to students most effectively, and demonstrate their ability to manage and measure student learning.

"This hallmark announcement is especially significant to education reform because research has shown that a quality teacher is the most significant influence on how well a child learns," says NBPTS President Betty Castor. "Our new cadre of National Board Certified Teachers tells us we're making excellent progress when it comes to ensuring top quality teaching for our students in every school in the country. It is also an indication that we are well on our way to reaching our goal of 100,000 National Board Certified Teachers by 2006."

Castor adds, "Whether they have achieved or not, I am extremely proud of the thousands of men and women who have put their teaching practice on the line throughout the past year in an effort to improve their own professional capacity and help their students."

"This is great news for the teachers, for their profession, and most of all for the children in our schools," says former North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt, the National Board's founding chair. "National Board Certified Teachers have shown they are at the top of the class in my state and across the country."

States with the highest number of teachers achieving National Board Certification in 2001 include: North Carolina (1,260), Florida (992), South Carolina (928), California (516), Ohio (417) and Mississippi (405).

“The shared experience of teachers working to become better teachers is strengthening the teaching profession,” says NBPTS Chair Barbara Kelley, an elementary school physical education teacher from Bangor, Maine. “Let us also recognize the school districts, universities, teacher unions, associations and other teachers who had previously achieved National Board Certification that have helped support candidates undertake this very rigorous process.”

More than 16,000 candidates have applied to pursue National Board Certification during the 2001-2002 academic year, an increase of nearly 50 percent from this time a year ago. Today, 47 states and nearly 400 local school districts provide fee reimbursements, salary supplements or other financial incentives to encourage teachers to seek National Board Certification. In Iowa, teacher candidates are eligible to receive state payment for half of the \$2300 registration fee, free mentoring support through the Iowa Office for Staff Development in the College of Education at the University of Northern Iowa and, upon certification, a \$2500 per year annual award for ten years as well as reimbursement for the other half of the registration fee.

The private sector is also providing substantial support for National Board Certification. Foundations, corporations and other private entities recognize the importance of accomplished teaching.

“National Board Certification is a great example of teachers taking the initiative to improve their skills and ultimately helping students achieve high academic standards” according to Dr. Vickie Trent, Director of the Iowa Office for Staff Development. “Recent research in Iowa has indicated that teachers who have been involved in National Board Certification in Iowa are more involved in professional development activities, collaborative school activities and reflective practice activities. National Board Candidates and Teachers also provide more professional services to their school districts; and differ in their teaching quality compared to teachers who have not been involved in the certification process.”

Earlier this year, four national business groups released an unprecedented report called Investing in Teaching. The National Alliance of Business (NAB), The Business Roundtable, the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce joined together to state: “If teachers as professionals are essential to helping all students reach high academic standards, we must provide them with the knowledge and tools to do the job.”

“There is a universal need for National Board Certified Teachers in every school in the country,” says NAB President and CEO Roberts T. Jones. “It is extremely important for

teachers to see in front of them career ladders and opportunities to enhance their profession. The most widely respected and supported example of that is National Board Certification because it ensures a quality standard of recognition.”

An overwhelming majority of candidates pursuing National Board Certification say they believe the process has made them a better teacher, according to a recent NBPTS survey, I Am a Better Teacher. Survey findings were based on feedback from more than half of the 10,700 first-time candidates pursuing National Board Certification from the 2000-2001 academic year. Teachers in Iowa consistently claim, “The National Board Certification process is THE BEST form of professional development” because it causes them to become “consciously competent about the decisions that [they] make in [their] classrooms each day.”

For a complete listing of National Board Certified Teachers in Iowa, please visit:  
<http://www.nbpts.org>

The following list of Iowa teachers represents those who were certified in November 2001:

Cheryl Adam  
Allamakee Community

Thomas Ball  
Jefferson-Scranton Community Schools

Louis Beck  
Union Community School District

Carolyn Boswell  
Chariton Community School District

Pamela Braun  
Columbus Community Schools

Karen Couch Breitbach  
Price Laboratory School

Barbara Buckton  
Norwalk Community Schools

Linda Buswell  
Iowa Valley Community School District

Reta Callahan  
Union Community School District

Donna Carhill  
Jefferson-Scranton Community Schools

Mary Margaret  
Coffield Lynnville-Sully

Janet Corcoran  
Davenport Community

Tammi Crotty  
Laurens-Marathon Community Schools

Nadene Davidson  
Price Laboratory School

Patricia Downey  
Muscatine Community Schools

Laurie Driscoll  
Union Community School District

Linda Ducommun  
Alta Community

Carol Duehr  
Dubuque Community School District

Carla Duke  
Burlington Community School District

Rita Eikamp  
Union Community School District

Vicki Engstrand  
Stanton Community Schools

LeeAnn Failyer  
Davis County

Linda Fikse  
River Valley

Julie Beth Flores  
Union Community School District

Barbara Haack  
Des Moines Community Schools

Michael Hale  
Council Bluffs Community Schools

Shari Hansen  
River Valley

Rae Hansen  
Webster City

Teresa Hanson  
Belmond Klemme Schools

Kathy Hay  
Allamakee Community

Bret Hoyer  
Cedar Rapids Community Schools

Sheila Huebsch  
Fort Dodge

Debra Huffman  
Des Moines Community Schools

Lynette Hyndman  
Cherokee

Rita Iversen  
Sioux City Community Schools

Brenda Jenkins  
River Valley

Malissa Juni  
Grinnell

Jodi Knight  
Pella Community Schools

Sherrie Kopecky  
Cedar Rapids Community Schools

Christine Lafrenz  
Cedar Rapids Community Schools

Mary Lammers  
Central Clayton Community

Denise Lazear  
Chariton Community School District

Sandy Lichty  
Area Education Agency 7

Tami Little  
Sergeant Bluff Luton Community Schools

Constance Lubbert  
Waterloo Community School District

Karen Luft  
Sioux City Community Schools

Kathleen McCarty  
Ballard-Huxley Community Schools

Susan McDanel  
Centerville Community Schools

Kevin McGinity  
Ottumwa Community

Penny McGuinness  
Muscatine Community Schools

Heather Messer  
Burlington Community School District

Kathleen Mikels  
Logan Magnolia

Matthew Miller  
Cedar Rapids Community Schools

Judy Miller  
Wall Lake View Auburn

Connie Morley  
Des Moines Independent Community

Julie Wilson Morningstar  
Allamakee Community

LeAnn Sue  
Grundman Morris Corning Community

Julie Murphy  
Westwood Community School District

Stanley Newton  
Vinton Shellsburg Community Schools

Diane Noonan  
Laurens-Marathon Community Schools

Susan Oetken  
Mason City Community Schools

Margaret Ortgiesen  
Vinton-Shellsburg Community Schools

Dale Orthmann  
Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn Community

Marcia Peterson Kay  
Laurens-Marathon Community Schools

Marsha Phillips  
Denison Community Schools

Ronda Rathe  
Dunkerton Community Schools

Kenneth Resch  
Dubuque Community School District

Douglas Richardson  
Norwalk Community Schools

Becky Ross  
Humboldt Community

Mary Schmidt  
Norwalk Community Schools

Patrice Schulte  
Allamakee Community

Kimberly Sherburne  
Allison-Bristow

Danielle Spaete  
Pleasant Valley

Aaron Spurr  
Price Laboratory School

Gerald Stein  
Jefferson-Scranton Community Schools

Jody Stone  
Price Laboratory School

Kathryn Struck  
Denison Community Schools

Lisa Anderson Tapper  
Northeast Hamilton Community School District

James Uhlenkamp  
Mt. Ayer Community Schools

Jeanne VanGenderen  
Urbandale Community

Peggy Weber  
Dubuque Community School District

Fonda Wettstad  
Southeast Polk Community Schools

Debra Wilcox  
River Valley

Rebecca Sue Williams  
Union Community School District



Donna Woodward  
Iowa City Community Schools

Andrea Wuebker  
Rockwell City Lytton

Beverly Yeager  
Battle Creek Ida Grove